

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Albania/USSR/Satellites	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Increase in Commercial Activity 2. Increase in Personnel for Soviet Missions, and of Albanian Students Going Abroad.	DATE DISTR.	3 June 1953	
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BY CABLE

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1. Relations between Albania and the USSR have been further developed since the death of Stalin, particularly in the commercial field. There has been a notable increase in the number of ships from Soviet-satellite countries entering and leaving Albanian ports, and the totals of Albanian imports and exports have risen to figures higher than any previously recorded. These increases have been noticed mainly in the import of vehicles, vehicle parts, fuels, machinery, construction material, and grains, and in exports of petroleum, bitumen and chrome ore.¹
2. Soviet military personnel and technicians arriving in Albania during the past month have increased the size of Soviet missions in that country.² More than a hundred Albanian specialists and student specialists, both military and civilian, left Albania at the beginning of May to attend training courses in Poland.
3. On the occasion of the National Congress of Albanian Agricultural Cooperatives, Enver Hoxha again emphasized the extent of Soviet aid to Albania and the extraordinary credit concessions which have been granted to Albanian agriculture by the USSR.

 Comments:

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1. It is doubtful that these increases have any connection with the death of Stalin. Rather this seems to be the same pattern which trade followed during the previous year. Beginning in February of 1952, the number of ships entering the ports of Durres and Vlone rose sharply to a high for the year which was maintained during March and April and then fell off through May and June. The overall increase is probably attributable to increased commercial interchange with Soviet-satellite countries; this includes trade agreements with the USSR, Rumania, and East Germany, as well as discussions with other orbit countries, which may have led to agreements.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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2. According to information available to this office, there has been no really significant increase in the size of Soviet Missions in Albania; it is considered more likely that the incoming group has been sent to take care of normal rotation of personnel.

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